

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Week of
26 April 2004

-News from Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq

How OSJA helps 1 CD fight back



Pictured at left are CPT Dan Everett and SPC Jeremiah Burch conducting a battle drill for counter-mortar fire in the 1 CD CIC, or Command Information Center. (Photo by MAJ Jim Agar)

MAJ Jim Agar

You've read all about the various rocket and mortar attacks and seen the stories on CNN. So what does the 1st Cavalry Division do when insurgents fire rounds at our FOBs?

For starters, we fire back and the decision to do so is always reviewed by a Judge Advocate officer. The process is simple. When insurgents fire a mortar or rocket, two specially designed, phased-array type radars capture or "acquire" the projectiles in flight. Designated Q-36 (short range) and Q-37 (long range), the radars are linked to a sophisticated computer called "ADOCS" that tracks the trajectory of the rounds. The computer then calculates the point of origin of the incoming fire, and the likely point of impact. The grid coordinates for these points are accurate to within 10 meters.

ADOCS then sounds an alarm in the command post. This

is when the Judge Advocate springs into action. Working with either the DFS-CORD (Division Fire Support Coordinator) or the FSE (Fire Support Element), the JAG scans the point of origin for the incoming fire. In about 45

seconds he/she employs the Rules of Engagement (ROE) and must ask a series of questions to determine whether to return fire with artillery and, if so, determine who must approve the fire.

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Pictured above is the M-109 Paladin, a 155mm, self-propelled artillery piece that can hurl a 115 lb. high explosive (HE) artillery shell (pictured at right) more than 15 miles at supersonic speed with pinpoint accuracy. (Photos by MAJ Jim Agar)

Knowledge Through Experience

1st Cav paralegals touch base with 1 AD counterparts to receive valuable information on surviving in Iraq.

SGT Teresa Johnston

First Cavalry Division paralegals were given the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of others last week when the 1st Armored Division Office of the Staff Judge Advocate hosted training at their headquarters.

First Cavalry soldiers loaded up in HMMWVs and made the 20-minute trip to BIAP (Baghdad International Airport) where 1 AD is headquartered.

The training was a result of the combined efforts of SFC(P) Terry Watson, 1 CD Chief Paralegal NCOIC, and his 1AD counterpart.

After initial introductions were made, MSG Brian Quarm, 1 AD Chief Paralegal NCOIC, addressed the group about their "Lessons Learned" topics ranging from low- and high-risk searches of Iraqi nationals, to convoy operations.

A few of the more experienced soldiers in 1 AD's SJA office gave demonstrations of the different ways to search people for weapons and other prohibited items before allowing to come into a secured area, such as a field Claims site.

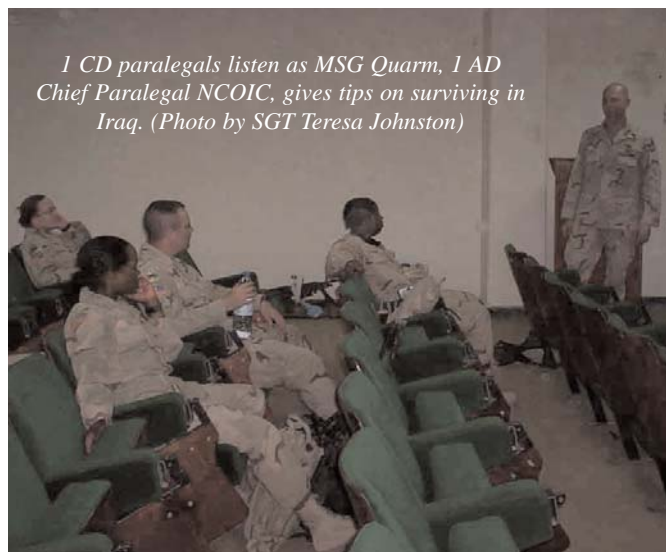
In a low-risk environment diplomacy outweighs any real security breach, so the dignity of those being searched is considered. However, in high-risk situations, the safety of those conducting the search is paramount.

"In that situation, the person's hand are held on top of their heads and you have a firm grip on their pinky fingers," the soldier giving the demonstration said. "When the MPs did this to us during our training, and believe me, it hurts. This is a very effective way of controlling their movements."

If the searchees continue to resist the searcher has two options: maneuver the searchee's head toward the ground or place a well-aimed kick behind one of their knees.

"If the enemy sees a group of vehicles at night that all have the same shape, they know it's us."

**-MSG Brian Quarm,
1 CD Chief
Paralegal NCOIC**



1 CD paralegals listen as MSG Quarm, 1 AD Chief Paralegal NCOIC, gives tips on surviving in Iraq. (Photo by SGT Teresa Johnston)

MSG Quarm continued the training by offering suggestions on how to make convoy operations safer by using incredibly simple techniques, such as taping lights on military vehicles to change their shape.

"If the enemy sees a group of vehicles at night that all have the same shape, they know it's us," he said. "Using tape you can make the circles into squares or half circles to throw them off."

Once temperatures reach the 100-degree plus mark, keeping body temperatures within safe levels and staying hydrated will be more important than ever. Suggestions were offered by the 1 AD soldiers as to how that could be accomplished.

"Water will be so hot that you can't drink it," one soldier said. "Put a bottle of water in a wet, black sock and spin it around for awhile. It won't make it cold but it will make the water drinkable."

At the conclusion of the training, SFC Watson thanked MSG Quarm and his staff for taking the time out to help his soldiers become more familiar with the operations in Iraq.

OSJA Profile

Administrator's duties expand

SGT Teresa Johnston

If you live by the computer, you also can die by the computer, unless, of course, you have a person on-hand who can keep them operating even under the worst of circumstances.

In the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, that responsibility falls on the shoulders of the legal administrator, who, in 1st Cavalry Division's case is CW2 Anton Streeter.

However, since deploying to a combat zone, CW2 Streeter's area of responsibility has grown, which is just what he wanted.

Now, he is acting as the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Claims section, which is charged with settling and paying out legitimate claims made by Iraqi nationals against the U.S. military.

This is no small task, but it is one for which he volunteered.

The Claims OIC slot is one traditionally held by an attorney, but the lack of them at division level meant someone had to step up and fill the void.

"I could've sat back and said 'I only do computer and budget stuff,' but I saw a need and I asked the (Staff Judge Advocate) if I could do it," CW2 Streeter said.

In fact, he is happy about the additional duties and hopes this will help change the scope of the Legal Administrator, where someone else is responsible for automation. This would allow him greater flexibility to assist the OSJA in new ways.

"The thing I like least about my job is the computer work--I spend entirely too much time doing that," he said. "If I had my way Legal Administrators wouldn't have to do

that stuff. That's not really an administrator is for."

CW2 Streeter has been in the U.S. Army for 12 years, with 9 1/2 of those spent as an enlisted member. As a Staff Sergeant and Legal NCO, he made the decision to "go warrant" in an attempt to increase the challenges in his chosen profession.

As a Brigade Legal NCOIC, the next logical goal for him was Chief Paralegal NCO of a division, which, because of his rank at the time, was a few years away.

"I went warrant because I was looking for new challenges, and I suppose you could say (I've found those challenges," he said.

CW2 Streeter said that as a Non-Commissioned Officer considering warrant officer's training, he didn't truly understand how little legal work he would be involved in as a legal administrator.

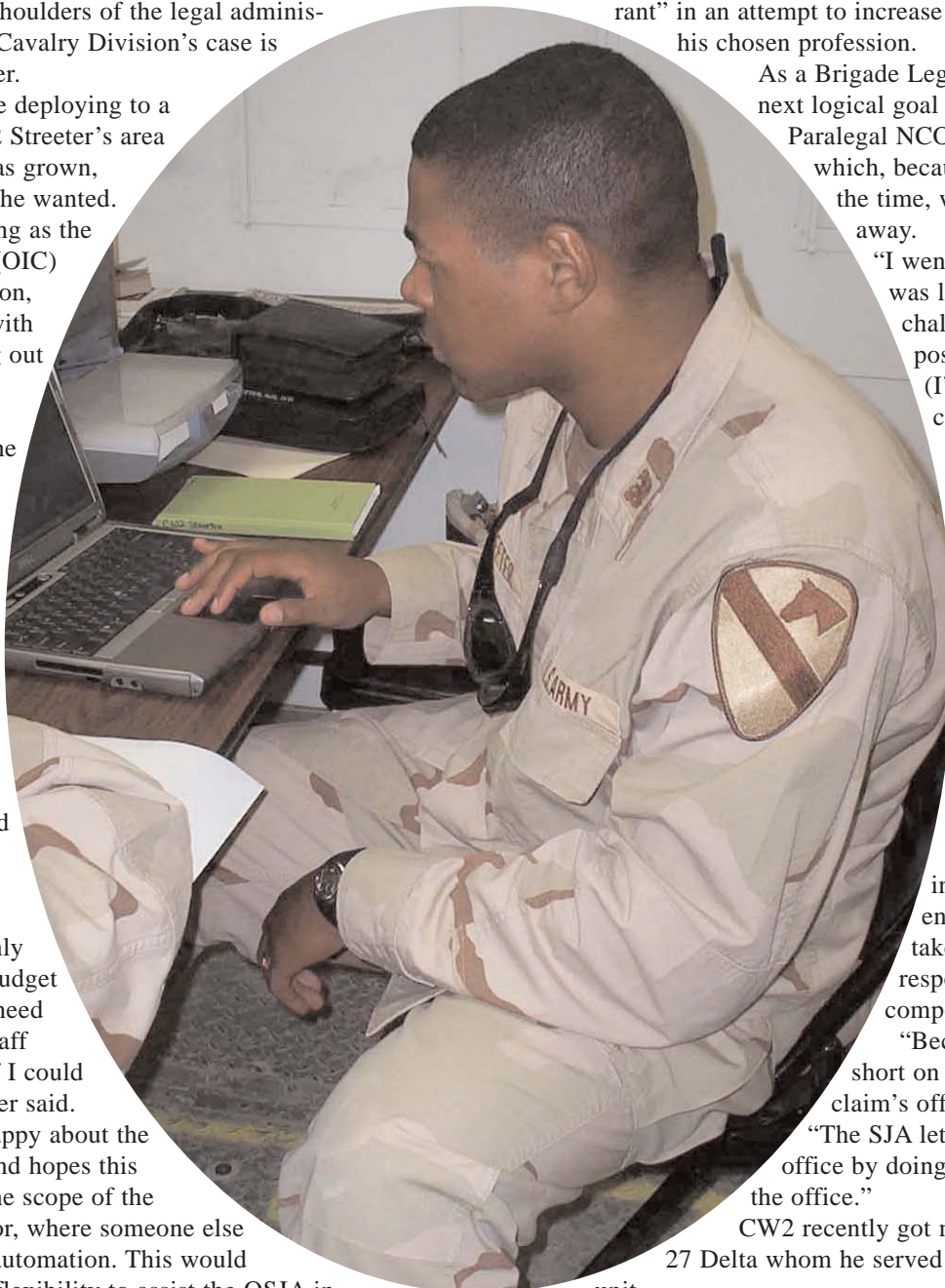
However, having an SJA who encourages people to take on greater responsibilities is a key component.

"Because we were short on attorneys I am the claim's officer," he said.

"The SJA lets you support the office by doing things that benefit the office."

CW2 recently got married to a former 27 Delta whom he served with at a previous unit.

Amalia Streeter is currently working towards a liberal arts degree at Tarleton State University and should be graduating sometime in 2006. They have five children: Calab, Zantavias, Catorina, Alexsus and Tymir.



Open for Business



PFC Kenya Lee trims up SFC Snowden mustache one day last week. The OSJA Claims section paralegal began developing her thriving "barber shop" business at Camp New York, Kuwait, because, even though barbers were scarce, male soldiers were still expected to keep their hair within army regulation. Male and female soldiers can be seen daily knocking on her door in hopes of getting an appointment for haircuts, mustache trims and other styling services. PFC Lee may expand her business to include manicures and other services. She said she began cutting hair as a way to save her family money. Pictured below, PFC Lee gives SFC(P) Watson, Chief Paralegal NCOIC, his weekly trim. (Photos by SGT Teresa Johnston)



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Pictured above is a phased-array radar that captures or "acquires" the image of projectiles in flight. (Photo by MAJ Jim Agar)

Usually the JAG officer will want to know where the point of origin is located. Is it a populated area or an open field? Are there any buildings near the point of origin? Are we taking continuous, effective fires from the area or is it just a single shot in the dark? Is this a false alarm or can we verify that rounds are actually

landing on the point of impact? What about the chance of collateral damage or the danger posed to innocent civilians?

Virtually every JAG officer assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division has now performed the task of applying ROE to a battle situation like this.

For years they drilled on it, but now it is for real.

Sometimes using indirect artillery fire isn't possible or would needlessly jeopardize civilian lives. In other instances a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) presents the best alternative. QRFs can be aircraft dispatched to the point of origin or a ground force in the

vicinity of the point of origin. Either way, it means bad news for the bad guys.

A volley of indirect artillery fire is the preferred method of answering hostile rocket and mortar fire. If the JAG officer approves of such fire and the commander orders it, a "fire for effect" order is sent to the local artillery unit.

By this time the artillery unit has already received a warning order and loaded the exact coordinates of the point of origin into the howitzer's targeting computer. The computer in turn calculates a firing solution, and maneuvers the howitzer into position, ready to fire the requisite number of shells. They wait. If the order to "fire for effect" is given, all they must do is load and fire. Gun crews are on stand-by 24 hours a day.

The M-109 Paladin is a wonder to behold. It is a state-of-the-art 155mm, self-propelled artillery piece that can

hurl a 115 lb. high explosive (HE) artillery shell more than 15 miles at supersonic speed with pinpoint accuracy. At impact, the shell detonates, creating a blast that covers half a football field. The white-hot shrapnel from the detonation could easily cover five football fields laid end to end. When the howitzer fires, the ground shakes for a mile in every direction. A thunderclap cannot compare to the force of the Paladin. You can FEEL the howitzer fire. Second Brigade conveniently located their Paladins just 100 meters from the DFAC (Dining Facility). When the big guns fire, the DFAC shakes and grazing soldiers erupt into a loud cheer.

Yes, there's an insurgency going on over here, but the Paladin leaves no doubt as to who is winning that fight. And the Judge Advocate officers of the First Team have a hand in determining when and how we shoot at the enemy.